



# New England Agricultural Statistics Service

a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service  
United States Department of Agriculture

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Believe it or not, the 2002 Census of Agriculture is just around the corner. A test version of the questionnaire has been sent to selected operations to determine if we have made improvements that are understandable. I do know that deer and llama are among some "other livestock" species that will have their own codes on the 2002 questionnaire, as long as the test results show that it can be answered properly. This will eliminate most of the hand tabulation that was necessary to get the snapshot that came from the 1997 Census.

To have a successful 2002 Census of Agriculture, we must start with the best possible list of farms in each state. We will be contacting State and Federal Departments of Agriculture, Farm Organizations and Commodity Associations for list building assistance in order to accomplish this task.

If you think your industry was under represented in the 1997 Census of Agriculture, this is your chance to help ensure that coverage improves in 2002. If you have, or know of, lists of farmers in New England, please call me on 1-800-642-9571. All lists are used only for data collection or dissemination of information. The lists immediately become federal documents that having complete confidentiality protection with exemption from disclosure based on the Freedom of Information Act.

Once again we express our most sincere thanks for the many thousands of responses received from farmers and agribusinesses across New England. Without you, this work does not get done! We also appreciate the cooperation of the Commissioners of Agriculture from all six states who fund the publication of this annual summary. Lastly, a special note of thanks to a dedicated staff of federal employees and contract NASDA data collectors who enjoy their work and strive to prepare the most accurate statistical base possible for New England agriculture.

Sincerely,

Aubrey R. Davis  
Director

## *Revision Policy of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS):*

*Most estimates are subject to revision, if necessary, when the next estimate is prepared. Revisions are made to provide data users with the best possible data for evaluating the current estimates. Revisions are based on additional data, such as new surveys, late reports, corrected data or more complete administrative data. Revisions may also be based on a re-evaluation of previous survey data when making current estimates to improve survey-to-survey relationships. When the Census of Agriculture becomes available every five years, all estimates made during those five years are reviewed for possible revisions. After reviewing estimates with Census data, there are no further revisions to NASS estimates.*

*This publication generally contains ten years of data. A review of Census statistics may have resulted in revisions to estimates as early as 1992. Additionally, the estimates for the most recent year may be revised after this publication is printed. For publication dates of reports with the most up-to-date information, see the table of contents for sections named 'New England Reports' and 'National Reports.'*